Erosion problem in the critical reaches of Ganga

305. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level expert Committee set up to study the erosion problem in the critical reaches of Ganga has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: (a) Yes, Sir. The High Level Expert Committee (HLEC) to study erosion problems in critical reaches of Ganga between Buxar and Mokama has submitted its report.

(b) The Committee in its findings has identified the critical areas[7] sites and suggested an number of short term and long term measures to tackle the problem of erosion caused by river Ganga between Buxar and Mokama. The Committee has stressed upon taking up the morphological studies and hydraulic model studies to know, more precisely, the erosion behaviour of the river and various factors responsible for it. The Committee has further emphasized on people's participation in the flood control and anti erosion works, maintenance of embankments and meeting flood emergencies.

(c) The report has been sent to the concerned State Governments for necessary follow up action on the various recommendations of the Committee.

Utilisation of rain water

306. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level is depleting at an alarming rate all over the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the heavy monsoon, the